

## FinBoard cans *thursday*

By William Cimino

*thursday-Voodoo* was ordered Tuesday to "cease publication activities" by the Undergraduate Association Finance Board which controls its office space and is acting as its financial overseer. This decision was reached after a year-long probationary period for the failing journal.

Keith Deterling '79, Editor-in-Chief of *thursday-Voodoo* claimed that "about six months ago, the Dean's Office decided to give our space to someone else." He added, "I feel that Dean Holden has been after the paper for many years, and that he has finally succeeded in disposing of it." Deterling cited student apathy as a

primary cause for the failure of the newspaper which was founded in 1969. He said, "The college students have changed. Everyone looks and acts like Barbie and Ken."

In April 1978, *thursday* was called in front of the Finance Board to discuss a debt on an MIT account of over \$7,000. The debt had accumulated when *thursday* purchased capital equipment. The records of *thursday*'s business manager had shown that it had the money for such a purchase; however, the account was overdrawn. *thursday* requested a loan in order to repay the debt. FinBoard did not respond to the request until *thursday* account records were audited. This audit found that about 75 percent of *thursday*'s accounts receivable were uncollectable; some would not pay while others were just very old.

Tom Colten '80, Finboard Chairman, said that *thursday* showed financial irresponsibility. In May 1978, FinBoard recommended that *thursday* be de-recognized as a student activity by the Association of Student Activities. The ASA, which felt that *thursday* would return to financial solvency, denied this request. Subsequently, FinBoard closed *thursday*'s MIT account.

**R.I.P.**  
***thursday***

They always had  
the Last Word.

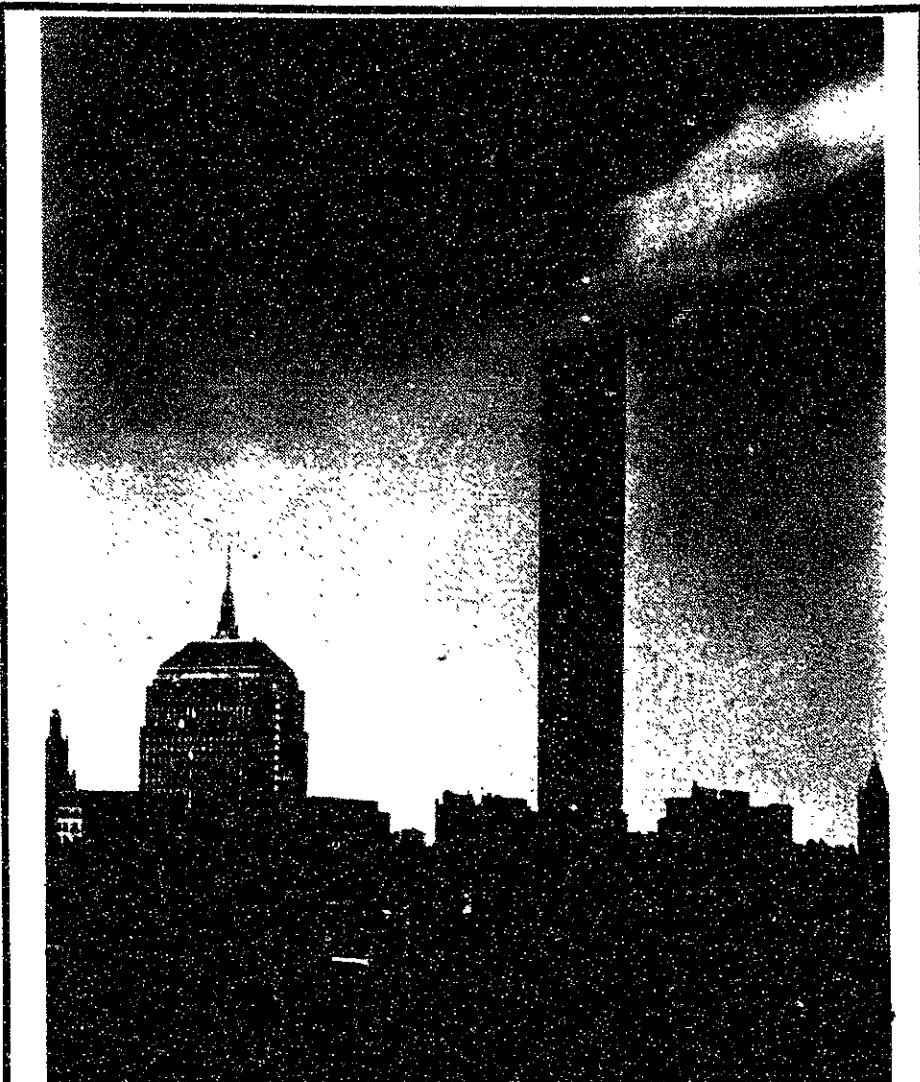
April 17, 1969  
March 22, 1979

Later in May 1978, representatives from the ASA, FinBoard, the Accounting Office and the Office of the Dean's for Student Affairs met with *thursday* to discuss future plans. They arrived at the agreement that the members of *thursday* would work over the summer (1978) to collect the accounts receivable with FinBoard acting as financial overseer. Over the summer, Steve Kopelson '79 succeeded in collecting many of these accounts.

In the fall of 1978, *thursday* was renamed *thursday-Voodoo*. FinBoard agreed to give the paper a \$1,000 cash flow loan which would cover operating expenses for the first few issues until advertising sales were built back up. The loan was granted with the stipulation that \$30 to \$50 per issue be paid toward the debt on the MIT accounts. A second condition was that *thursday* had to turn a profit on each issue. According to Colten, during this probationary period *thursday* was periodically audited.

This spring, *thursday* still had not succeeded in repaying the debt to MIT. An audit showed that about \$200 had been repaid.

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Back Bay found itself blacked out three nights in a row this week. Aging power cables under Boylston Street short-circuited Sunday evening, starting a chain of manhole fires which Boston Edison stopped by blacking out the area. (Photo by Joel West)

## CIA findings to be announced

By Elaine Douglass

The Institute's ad hoc committee on MIT and US intelligence agencies has completed a draft report containing the results of over a year of study by the six-member group.

The report will be published in *Tech Talk* April 11, and will be discussed at the next monthly faculty meeting April 18.

Ad hoc committee chairman Professor Ken Hoffman, head of the department of mathematics, said he hopes to initiate a number of meetings with faculty, administrators, and students for broad-ranging discussion of the report and Institute policy toward the CIA and other intelligence agencies.

Barry Newman, outgoing presi-

dent of the Undergraduate Association, and Fernando Cruz-Villalba, president of the Graduate Student Council, both said that the entire matter of intelligence agency contacts on university campuses has substantial importance to students.

Each said they planned to attend the April 18 meeting and expressed the hope that many students will attend. The meeting is scheduled for 3:15pm in 10-250.

Chancellor Gray rebuffed student attempts in the spring of 1978 to obtain representation on the ad hoc committee.

The committee was appointed February 1978 by the Chancellor. In addition to Hoffman, its members include Louis Menand, special assistant to the Provost and Senior Lecturer in political science; John Wynne, vice president for administration and personnel; Ascher Shapiro, Institute Professor in mechanical engineering; Phyllis Wallace, professor of management; and Myron Weiner, professor of political science.

It is believed the draft report, some 30 typed pages in length, is

intended to lead to the adoption of MIT regulations defining allowable and prohibited contacts between MIT persons and US intelligence agencies. Harvard University adopted a set of such regulations in 1977.

The Harvard regulations allow above-board research contracts with intelligence agencies, but prohibit secret connections. Among other things, the Harvard regulations prohibit secret recruiting of foreign students or anyone else, and forbid any person employed at Harvard from assisting in intelligence agency operations.

In past interviews, Hoffman has stressed that the MIT committee did not want to investigate specific contacts between MIT persons and intelligence agencies, but instead wished to define generic issues and realistic hypothetical scenarios.

However, committee members have said that various MIT faculty contacted them confidentially during the past year to relate their experiences with intelligence agencies.

## Most proxies rejected

By Ron Newman

The MIT Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility voted Wednesday to recommend rejection of nearly all the shareholder proposals submitted to it so far. The ACSR's recommendations go to the MIT Corporation Executive Committee for a final vote today.

The only proxy proposal approved by the ACSR asks the Caterpillar Tractor Company "to establish a review committee to examine Caterpillar activities in South Africa, including the possible military or police use of equipment sold there."

In a reversal of last year's policy, the ACSR rejected, by a 4-2 vote, a proposal that Eastman Kodak refrain from selling photographic supplies "which can be used for oppressive purposes" by the South African government. The majority of the Committee accepted Kodak's claim that the company "does not and cannot control the actions of our customers," who could presumably resell Kodak products to the South African government. Last year's ACSR approved a similar Kodak motion but was then overruled by the MIT Corporation Executive Committee.

For the second year in a row, the ACSR recommended abstention on a proposal to require that American Home Products Corporation es-

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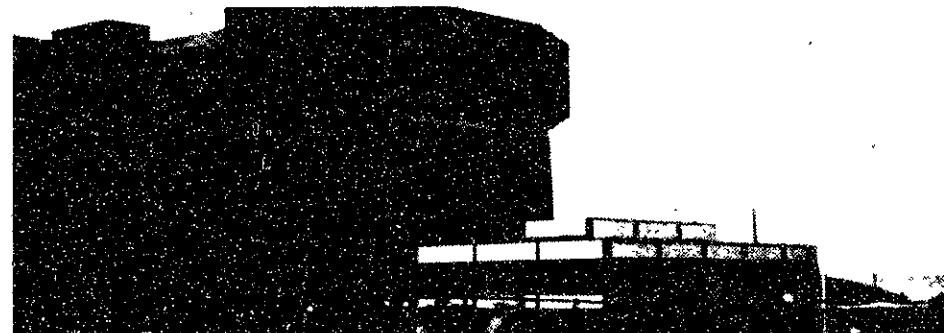
## Rasmussen: nukes okay

By Hans von Spavosky

*Editor's Note: This article, the second in a series on nuclear power safety, is a continuation of the interview with Prof. Norman Rasmussen, the author of the Reactor Safety Study, Wash-1400.*

*The Tech: What do you think of the present administration's energy policy or lack thereof?*

Rasmussen: I'm disappointed that we've been able to make no headway in reducing our dependence on Middle Eastern oil. In fact, since 1974, our dependence on Middle Eastern oil has gone up by a factor of two or three, if I remember the number correctly. While we know that's a national goal of importance, we have not been able to achieve it. Whether it's the president's fault or Congress's fault or the Department of Energy's fault I'm not clever enough to decide, but together, the political leadership of the country has not done a number of things that it seems to me it would take to turn that



MIT Professor Norman Rasmussen advocates switching to coal and nuclear power, produced in reactors such as this, to reduce dependence on foreign oil. (Photo by Hans von Spavosky)

problem around.

One is to accelerate the use of coal and nuclear; both have been decelerated in the last few years, in part because of a continual series of environmental and regulatory barriers that have been made harder to overcome. We have not accelerated drilling for offshore oil, in fact we have impeded the efforts to develop new offshore fields. We have maintained the price of oil in this country below the world market price which does not stimulate

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Do you think you want to work for the government this summer? Maybe you should talk to your family and a few friends first. Page 4.

\* \* \* \*

*thursday* was a valuable alternative newspaper on the MIT campus for many years. Although it did have its faults, *thursday* often caught news which *The Tech* missed. Page 4.

\* \* \* \*

Comic-strip hero Buck Rogers returns to Earth in a new movie that crash lands on arrival. Special effects that everyone has seen are combined with a story that no one will want to. Page 6.

\* \* \* \*

Although most of last year's squad is returning, the lacrosse team faces difficulty in replacing last year's captain and leading scorer, Gordy Zuerndorfer. Coach Walt Alessi gives his outlook on the upcoming season. Page 8.

## inside

## Mountaineering #2.

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(Church key used by faithful mountaineers.)

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Be adventurous. Experiment. Most mountaineers have a personal preference. You'll develop one too.

Food is next. Proper mountaineering, not to mention proper nutrition, requires a smorgasbord selection of snacks. Some mountaineers have suffered from a potato chip deficiency, a pretzel imbalance or other serious dietary defects. Plan ahead.

Comfort is crucial. If you mountaineer in public, pick a padded bar stool, preferably one that spins (to facilitate admiring the scenery). At home, a comfortable chair or sofa will do. Rule of thumb: if it feels good, and the police don't seem to mind, do it.

Then turn on the tube or spin a tune or crack a good book. The choice is strictly between you and the dominant hemisphere of your brain. Of course, some mountaineers say the smooth, refreshing taste of Busch is entertainment enough. And thank goodness they do, because it's an excellent conclusion.

(Comfort is crucial)



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# news roundup

## World

**War in Uganda continues** — Tanzanian and exile Ugandan forces aimed at ousting Ugandan President Idi Amin began an assault of Kampala, the capital city, yesterday. The invading forces now control the road to the international airport at Entebbe and the police headquarters at Makindye. Despite aid from 2000 troops from his ally Libya, Amin's army is now completely destroyed.

## Nation

**Strike forces more flight cancellations** — United Airlines cancelled all flights through the Easter holiday period yesterday. The nation's largest airline normally has 1600 flights and carries 130,000 passengers daily. Plans have been made for additional lay-offs until a contract dispute with the striking machinists has been resolved.

## Local

**BU faculty strike** — Two days after Boston University trustees voted conditional approval of a contract with the school's faculty, teachers walked out on strike Thursday. They said that trustees were renegeing of Friday's settlement terms, but the trustees said that changes they demanded were merely clarifications.

## Weather

Partly cloudy conditions will prevail over Boston today, with highs reaching 44-48. Scattered rainfall activity will increase toward evening as a cold front passes through sometime tonight, dropping low temperatures Saturday morning to 28-32. For Saturday, clearing conditions will be accompanied by strong northwesterly winds, keeping highs in the low 40's. The "Montreal Express" winds tomorrow night will bring unseasonable cold lows in the 20's.

Looking ahead: milder weather for Sunday. Chance of rain 40% today, 70% tonight, 40% tomorrow.

## Students outvoted in ACSR

(Continued from page 1)

Establish a committee to review its infant formula marketing practices in Third World countries. Although last year's ACSR directed secretary Walter Milne to study the infant formula controversy "in consultation with members of the Department of Nutrition and Food Science," no such report was available at this week's meeting.

Other motions rejected by the ACSR would have requested that American Express withdraw from South Africa; that Mobil and Standard Oil of California cut their oil sales to South Africa by one-third because of allegations that some of the oil is being resold to Rhodesia in violation of U.S. sanctions; that Mobil recognize black trade unions in South Africa; and that Standard Oil of California report on Federally-irrigated lands which that company holds in excess of limits set by the 1902 Reclamation Act.

The votes on the rejected resolutions usually showed the committee's two students, Chris DeMarco '79 and Dan Saltzman '79, voting for the proposals while the remainder of the committee voted no. "Too often, the Committee loses perspective of the issues," Saltzman commented after the meeting. "There seems to be a general resentment of infringing

on 'management prerogatives.' To me, corporate responsibility is a thing that must be forced upon management."

DeMarco concurred with Saltzman's sentiments. "There seems to be a general cynicism on the ACSR about outside review committees," he remarked. "The other people on the committee have a lot more sympathy for management... they doubted the effectiveness of resolutions."

The Committee's decisions to abstain on the American Home Products proposal and to reject the Standard Oil proposal on California land appeared to be based largely on the Committee's lack of information on the issues involved. The latter proxy reached the committee only on the day of the meeting, and the issue was unfamiliar to all of the Committee members except

Saltzman.

On the infant formula question, the Committee suspended its judgment due to the lack of an expected report from Nutrition Professor Nevin Scrimshaw. The Scrimshaw study, now scheduled to come out sometime this summer, is funded in part by Abbott Ross Labs, another infant formula manufacturer.

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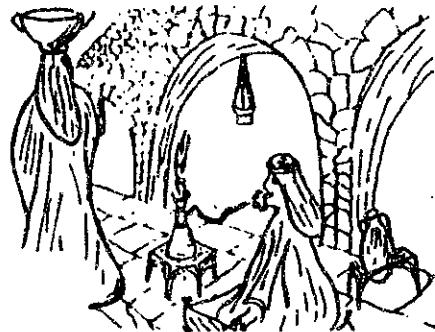
Cambridge

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## opinion

Guest Column/Mark James

## Thursday VooDoo: the end of the line

*Editor's note: Mark James was News Editor of The Tech from 1977 to 1978.*

"Thursday gets time to stall foreclosure."

That headline appeared in *The Tech* on February 12, February 12, 1971, that is. The article beneath said that the Undergraduate Association Financial Board would let the paper live until March 24. Finboard member John Kavazanjian '74, however, felt that "when the virtues, financially and journalistically, are weighed, *thursday* fails to justify its existence."

### Debt seldom shrank and usually grew

Doubtless many students since then have agreed with Kavazanjian. But others have found the paper a valuable alternative to *The Tech*. Either way, it did survive. So did its debt, which rose from about \$3,000 in 1971 to about \$7,000 today.

Like the national debt, *thursday*'s shortfall seldom shrank and usually grew. Even when hard-working advertising staffs brought in cash, the paper lacked the discipline to run smaller, money-making issues that might help pay off the debt.

Finboard lost its patience with that debt this week, but that doesn't prove Kavazanjian right. *thursday* did have its virtues.

Its most recent major scoop was its report in the spring of 1976 that MIT was training Taiwanese students how to make guidance systems that could be used in missiles. Although scoops didn't necessarily make *thursday* a good paper, its commentators looked at political issue, such as the heavy-handed actions of the Shah of Iran, long before the Shah's demise forced the mainstream press to take notice.

Reviewers covered music from pop to the obscure. Columnists spouted flame at anybody of any power around MIT, to the delight of some and the revulsion of others.

The paper flirted with semi-weekly issues when it gave birth to *monday*, although there were weeks without either paper due to the inevitable cash shortages.

Also, the paper for many years rightly claimed "the most widely read page at MIT," *the last word*.

But mixed with the readable copy was some best forgotten.

Some things won't be forgotten soon, such as the "Consumer Guide to MIT men." Two women rated 36 men on their sexual prowess or lack of it, and published the results with explicit comments and zero-to-four star ratings in the April 28, 1977 *thursday*.

The Associated Press, *Newsweek*, and other national media jumped on the story after a chagrined MIT administration lashed out and brought charges leading to reprimands for two students and a suspension of the degree of a third.

### Losing direction

Coincidence or not, that event was close to the end of the road for *thursday*. Several of the older leaders on the paper soon graduated or left, and younger staff were unable to find a new direction for a paper that had been losing direction for many years.

When Jim Smith left *The Tech* to help bring out the new paper's first issue April 17, 1969, the question was clearly one of politics: radicals felt stilled by the *The Tech*'s lack of revolutionary zeal. The early *thursday* had little difficulty filling its pages with alternative journalism; filling the rest of the space with ads wasn't as easy.

After the heat of politics of the early 1970's dissipated, the paper wavered between lingering leftism and attempts at being a '70's style arts weekly.

The paper that only a short time earlier had captured readers and ads away from *The Tech* hit the final obstacle when FinBoard looked hard at the paper's finances in the spring of 1978, and didn't like what it found. Then *thursday* got another reprieve, but it turned out to be its last.

Why should we miss it? For one thing, a second paper sometimes kept *The Tech* from getting lazy in news coverage, and provided more space for writers than one paper could.

A second voice in MIT journalism may not be dead forever. But any future publisher will have to be a better business manager than most of those who ran *thursday*.

FinBoard rightly gave *thursday* time to get its house in order, but next time they won't wait eight years.

# The Tech

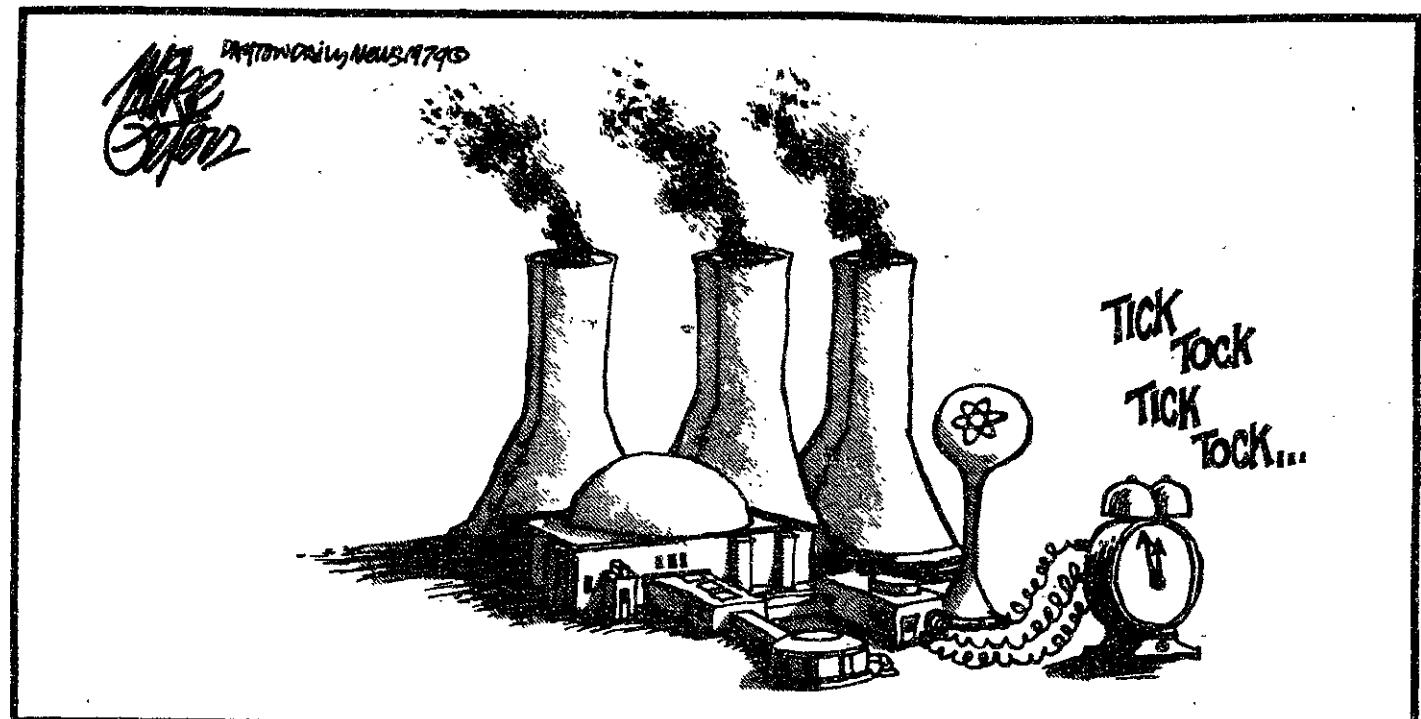
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Bob Wasserman

## On the way to Washington. . .

Thinking about where I might work this summer, I ran across some advertisements for federal jobs. The pay was good, the work was relevant to my career, and Washington, DC seemed like a good place to be in the summer.

So beginning to feel a bit of enthusiasm, I called the kinfolk in Kentucky to tell them of my tentative plans.

"I think I'm going to work in Washington this summer, Mom," I said over the telephone.

"What!!" she exclaimed. "You want to be a member of the entrenched federal bureaucracy? One of those unresponsive, power-crazy technocrats? Where did I go wrong?"

"But Mom, for God's sake," I pleaded, "I'm not working for the IRS."

"No matter, they're all the same," she answered. "Here," she said to my father, passing him the phone. "See if you can talk some sense into your son."

"What's this I hear about your joining the national government?" my father growled.

"It's true, Dad," I explained. "I've been thinking about working for the Environmental Protection Agency or perhaps the Occupational Safety and Health Administration."

"Son, how could you?" my father protested. "Those are the very organizations that are strangling the life's breath out of American business and destroying the American way of life."

"Well, it's not that bad, Pop," I said. I tried again: "I might work for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, or maybe the Housing and Urban Development Department."

"Oh no," my father warned. "No son of mine is going to be a wasteful government spender. You're disowned!!!"

"It must have been that Eastern school we sent him to that's made him a soft-hearted liberal," my parents lamented as they hung up the phone.

Later that week I received a small package from my uncle in New York. My uncle, always a practical joker, had sent me a pair of scissors. Along with the scissors was a note which bore the inscription, "Just something to help you cut the bureaucratic red tape this summer."

Failing to receive any support on my occupational objectives from my family, I turned to my friends for advice.

"Bob, get a job in business. Be sensible," said my pre-corporate associate. "You don't want to work in that inefficient, un-innovative government. Heck, the only place for a man with ambition and drive is in the corporate world."

Another friend was less direct but just as insistent. "Hey, man,

working for the federal dudes isn't cool. All the rules and rigamarole you've got to go through in those places, that ain't for you. Be your own man, do research or teach or just study if you want this summer. Academia is where it's at."

"But the majority of college professors spend most of their time applying for federal grants for research. They're dependent on the federal government," I argued.

"Wrong, wrong, wrong. The reason they spend so much time filling out grant applications is not because they're dependent on the feds, it's because there is so much paperwork to do for Uncle Sam."

"Well, by this time I was losing my commitment to work for any federal agency. But I was still considering it until I got a call from a prominent politician.

"Bob," I heard a young, mellow man say, "This is Governor Jerry Brown of California. I've heard that you've been consider-

ing a job in Washington."

"That's right, Governor," I replied, wondering if he could help me with my TM.

"Well, we want you to think again. Me and the American people are waging a fight for a balanced federal budget to reduce exorbitant government spending, and we'd like you to join our forces."

"Hmm," I thought, "Why not?"

"Can I have Linda Ronstadt if I join you guys?" I queried.

"No, she's mine," he snapped.

"Well, how about a seaside villa in Malibu Beach?" I ventured.

"I think we can arrange that," he said. "We'll set you up in one of the schools or halfway houses closed by Proposition 13."

California, here I come!

In Tuesday's issue of *The Tech*, a column by Joel West on nuclear power was erroneously attributed to Michael Taviss.

Guest Column/J. Spencer Love

## Campus overreacts again

The other day a friend of mine asked to see the T-shirt I was wearing. The T-shirt was a freebie given out at this year's freshman picnic: a promotion for Florida orange juice. The first thing she said was, "You know, that shirt could be offensive to gay people." I laughed. Then, since it really isn't very funny, I told her about some of MIT's recent scandals, such as the recent Jews for Jesus debacle.

I would like to thank any members of GAMIT or their friends who may have been offended by that T-shirt for keeping their sense of perspective. Considering the recent treatment of their bulletin board, it is clear that GAMIT has a far more substantial gripe than Hillel and a more immediate one than BSU, yet hardly any notice has been taken by the campus media. Actual harassment of groups such as GAMIT is a genuine threat to the free speech and civil rights of us all. The vandalism demonstrates the political immaturity of the culprit(s), but the lack of comment reflects poorly upon the real political awareness of MIT social activists in general.

Of course, any group might have stepped forward to complain about the T-shirts that were given out at the picnic. Along with the Florida orange juice shirts were others promoting Coca Cola®. There used to be plenty of support on campus for boycotting non-union lettuce, so there are probably many who have things to say about the business practices of the two advertisers, the general harmfulness of soft drinks, or even the propriety of MIT Dining Service's distribution of advertising material at the picnic. The only mention that the shirts received, however, was one line in *The Tech*. Some people thought that the shirts were a rush violation since the names of two living groups appeared on the shirts.

Contrast this with the media attention given to the Jews for Jesus scandal or the Grogo incident. In each case, the administration felt forced to intervene, and a large part of the MIT community became strongly polarized. We are extremely fortunate that the most recent scandal did not go to federal court, where it would have become a national media issue and might have resulted in yet another precedent-setting decision encroaching on the rights of organizations which have government contracts. Even so, observers outside the MIT community perceived a threat to our freedoms of speech and religion in recent events. Unfortunately, an apparent assault can be just as detrimental to our civil liberties as a real one.

Action on behalf of others who might be insulted is hardly ever justified and helps promote mass hysteria at MIT. The picture of Harvey Grogo that appeared in last year's freshman picture book was, at worst, a comment on Idi Amin. Was it either necessary or appropriate that that man be defended in the name of the MIT community? Did MIT Hillel really have to intervene in the activities of another campus religious group? Consider the rage that anyone who was actually deceived would feel, and what such a person might do

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# opinion

## feedback

### US should get involved

To the editor:

Ron Newman's column in the March 16, 1979 issue of *The Tech* seems vastly overdrawn and inappropriate for the times. The author said he fears the rise of war-mongering jingoism in the land and he bemoans the failure of the (young) people of the US to resist the trend towards a new "hard-line" position he obviously detests.

A reasonable person can surely question the author's judgments and his sense of the dangers in the world and their causes. We should all benefit from the ability the passing of time has given us to establish a broader and less emotional appreciation of past events, including the War in Vietnam. The author fondly recalls those who marched to protest the American involvement in that war with little reflection in his column at least, as to the ultimate outcome of that war and the moral, political, and military issues that were so poorly understood by the protesters then and, apparently, by the author now. The US did not achieve its stated, or anybody's definition of its unstated, goals in that war and, by fairly objective examination of the regimes that followed in the wake of the US abandonment of its allies, it is difficult to believe that the people of the region have not suffered far more due to our loss of will than they would have in the worst realistic outcome if we had remained as the regional policemen.

Nonetheless, the author's own examples of the American responses to the events in Angola and Ethiopia, and such unmentioned Soviet achievements as the coups in South Yemen and Afghanistan, are hardly evidence of a "Macho" US foreign policy in recent years. Furthermore, it is abundantly clear, whether or not our national responses in those and other instances were strong

or wise they were perceived as examples of US confusion, weakness and decline by almost everybody else in the world. Even in the very unlikely possibility that it is somehow correct for this country to shrink from exerting its influence on foreign events we surely cannot maintain that position for much longer if, for no other reason, that we will not be allowed to do so.

Vietnam, Angola, Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan, even, through the most questionable logic, Iran, might arguably be said to have been of little real importance to our country and not areas of vital national interest to us. But, unless one believes that the overthrow of "pro-Western" (to use the author's phrase), democratic, anti-Soviet or even moderately benign non-Russian controlled dictatorships should never be of concern to us, we will have to adopt what the author refers to as a hard line at some point in the (in all likelihood, near) future. Continued acquiescence to the type of foreign developments mentioned above will invariably lead to similar events elsewhere in the world. Without a meaningful and dependable American presence on the world scene the position of "pro-Western" nations, peoples and ideologies will continue to become more and more untenable.

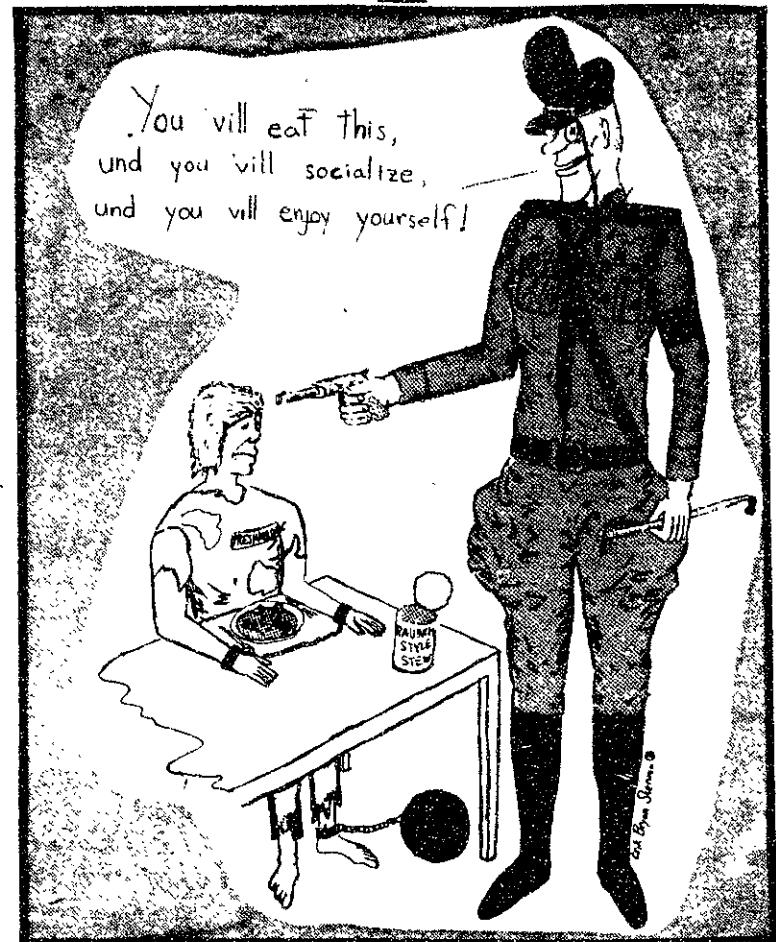
Unless one believes that the root of all evil is to be found in the US and that all bad things, like the arms race and the Cold War, are initiated and exacerbated by our country I believe it is hard not to be seriously concerned with this pattern of world affairs. The question then is when and where we choose to try to halt (and, if possible, reverse) the chain of events. Does one wait until the figurative Hitler is at the gates, like the English student of the 30's who signed petitions that they would never fight for God

and Country, before reassessing one's self flagellating, guilt ridden position?

The balance of military power has undoubtedly shifted drastically in the last few years. Soviet power is on the ascendancy. Unless people like the author, do not cherish our democratic institutions, our freedoms and / or our economic well being they must decide what they are willing to sacrifice to preserve them. Be it the innocence and "purity" of the isolationist (the same innocence and purity that allowed Hitler to come to power and slaughter millions, that allowed the Cambodian regime to massacre its own people, and that continues to allow an Idi Amin to exist) or the sacrifices of higher defense spending or the comfort of not experiencing the obvious (but not greater) dangers of overtly (and covertly) promoting our own interests in the world, they must decide soon. It is doubtful that we can continue our complacent policies of non-commitment much longer without slipping into a permanent and suicidal national decline.

A last point on the author's comments. In the March 16, 1979 *Newsweek*'s column George Will, to which the author most strongly objected, it must be noted that Mr. Will did not ask Americans to forget how bad the Vietnam War was despite the author's assertion to the contrary. Mr. Will did decry the paralysis our foreign policy has suffered due to the overlearned and misapplied lessons of that conflict, and none more so than the thoughtless slogan "No More Vietnams". I strongly recommend that the author carefully and thoughtfully reread the Will column and reflect on the very real dangers to peace that, as Mr. Will discusses, a foreign policy of non-involvement at any cost has helped to nurture.

Michael Frankston



### Campus hypersensitivity

(Continued from page 4)

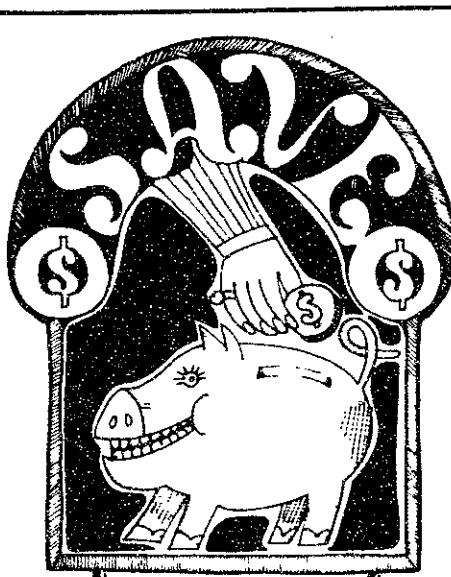
about his or her legitimate complaint. The Jewish people that I have known have generally been either so non-religious that the word 'Jewish' is merely an ethnic technicality, or the extremely devout opposite. In either case, poor material for conversion to Christianity.

Last year, when the Grogo controversy was raging on campus, did you gently pat yourself on the back for being on the 'right' side of the issue, and wonder about the irrationality of the other side? I did, and I had plenty of company. Now, many of my former "complatriots" (compatriots in complacency) have chosen opposing sides of another overblown issue and it's last year's victim's turn to laugh at us. If they're not laughing, it's because they're more civilized than we were.

What will our next scandal be? So far, some fraternities have given us violence, *Thursday* has given us sex, TCA has given us racism, and Jews for Jesus has given us religion. Will the ASA attempt to preempt the regular (MIT Administration) cast of

characters again? Will there be editorials in *Time* and *Newsweek*?

It's been quite a while since the Basement Video production of *The Dating Game*, so I was pleased to see that someone is putting together a new TV game program. That's what all the 'MIT 5.0' signs are for. However, perhaps they have chosen the wrong sort of program for MIT. It might be much more appropriate if they produced *This Is Your Guilt*.



### US action long overdue

To the editor:

To view the Federal Administration's current foreign policy in the Indian Ocean region as evidence of a "crude national chauvinism", as Mr. Ron Newman did in his editorial indicates an unrealistic perception of the world situation and its relationship to America. Mr. Newman seems to be alarmed that US measures to make its interests known in the Middle East and Southeast Asia are a step toward intervention in the internal affairs of foreign nations and a return to the thinking which led us into Vietnam. On the contrary, while admitting that we must be careful in our actions, I feel that taking an active role in the affairs of this area is long overdue.

An inspection of a map of the Indian Ocean, and the countries which border it, in light of the political developments of the last 15-20 years will show that between South Africa at the tip of that continent and Thailand in the southeast corner of another continent, only two major nations are still friendly to the United States: Kenya and Saudi Arabia. India is at best neutral, Iran is uncertain, and the others are definitely not our allies. Yet though this ocean passes the oil which is the lifeblood of Japan and Western Europe and upon which we ourselves depend so heavily.

Richard Celotto G

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arts

# Lucky Buck is back (but don't bother)

**Buck Rogers in the 25th Century**, starring Gil Gerard, Pamela Hensley, and Erin Gray; screenplay by Glen A. Larson and Leslie Stevens; Executive producer: Glen A. Larson; produced by Richard Caffey; directed by Dainel Haller; now playing at Sack 57.

By Shawn Wilson

For a long time, a new science fiction movie was simply called another space opera and died in relative obscurity. *Star Wars* changed all that, primarily with a new generation of special effects that have been used or simulated countless times since, notably in television commercials and on *Battlestar Galactica*. This is the problem with *Buck Rogers*: Using all the same effects, it becomes just another space opera.

It's not even a good space opera. The pace is slow, nothing substantial seems to happen regardless of what the characters say — it isn't even actively bad, but bland. The sight of a big spaceship (a *big* spaceship) doesn't fascinate, like the Death Star did, or even interest vaguely, the way the *Galactica* does.

**Buck Rogers** (Gil Gerard), an astronaut who leaves Earth in 1987, is accidentally quick-frozen by something in space (that's really no less plausible than the noxious cave gas that preserved the hero of the original *Buck Rogers* comic strip some forty years ago). The spacecraft returns to Earth in 2491, and Buck finds himself in an interstellar cold war, where he's thought to be a spy, first by the bad guys (the ones with the big ship), then by the good guys (that's Earth). It takes our hero half the movie to convince himself of where (when?) he is, which is more realistic than finding oneself in a science-fiction situation and instantly adapting, but it gets dull, as does the obligatory cute robot, the explosion-ridden climax, the sight of a *big* spaceship . . . forget it.

My principal complaint is the

similarities, not to *Star Wars*, but to the weaker (though often competent) *Battlestar Galactica*. These include the outer space dogfights, the fighter launch-accelerators, the red-out at headquarters during a red alert, and *Galactica's* producer, Glen A. Larson, whose influence must not be obvious. (If that isn't enough, the handle of the starfighter's throttle has three buttons and reads FIRE/TURBO/IM — precisely like those in *Galactica's* Vipers.)

A few interesting pockets of quality: the grand ball scene, wherein costumes, dance and music appear based on those of the 1700s; Buck's being saved more than once by the officer in charge of Earth's defenses, Col. Wilma Deering (A minor feminist victory? Maybe.); and Buck's clever way of winning a dogfight singlehandedly: placing the bad guys' missiles in their rocket's afterburners (they blow themselves up). In addition, knowing the average MIT undergrad's love for the really poor, Buck Rogers may be worth the admission price in hack value.



Gil Gerard (right) awaits sentencing by a computer tribunal.

## MIT

The Musical Theatre Guild presents *Oklahoma!*; with performances Friday and Saturday nights April 6, 7, 13, 14 at 8pm, Sunday April 8 at 2pm and Thursday April 12 at 8pm at Kresge. Tickets \$4.50 Fri. & Sat. (\$3 with MIT ID), Sun. & Thurs. \$3.50 (\$2 with MIT ID). For information or reservations call 253-6294.

The last *Strat's Rat*, dubbed the Ed King Memorial Toga Rat, will take place this Friday. The 20-year-old drinking age has spelled the end of this incarnation of the perennial campus mixer; toga-clad participants will find that everything this one last time is free. 8:30pm in the Sala.

## Movies

**Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid**, the MidNite Movie, Saturday in the Sala. *This week's LSC lineup:*

**A Clockwork Orange** Fri., 7 & 10, 26-100  
**400 Blows** (classic) Fri., 7:30, 10-250  
**Sleeper** Sat., 7 & 9:30, 26-100.  
**Bonnie & Clyde** Sun., 6:30 & 9, 10-250.

## Music

The Allman Brothers Band will be coming to the Music Hall April 23 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$9.50 and \$8.50; they are available at the Box office, Out-of-Town, and various other outlets.

## Theatre

**A Chorus Line** returns to Boston beginning March 21. The musical plays Tues.-Sat.

## on the town

at 8pm, with matinees Wed. and Sat. at 2pm, Sun. at 3pm. For ticket information call 426-4520.

The Madhouse Company of London has imported insane British comedy to these shores under the title of *Silly Buggers*. The show plays Tuesday-Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 7pm & 10pm, and Sundays at 3pm. For further information call the Charles Playhouse at 542-0095.

**The Shadow Box**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play directed by Richard Chamberlain will run through Apr. 22. The curtain rises Tuesdays through Fridays at 8pm, Sat. at 7 and 10pm and Sundays at 3 and 7:30pm. For information call the Charles Playhouse at 426-6912.



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MIT Student Center  
College ID Required

JJB 71

# Professor defends nuclear safety

(Continued from page 1)  
ment of Energy's fault, but surely among the three the blame lies because we have not had the leadership in that area that we should have had.

*The Tech: A lot of opponents of nuclear power bring up the question of nuclear wastes. How efficient is our disposal system and how dangerous is storage?*

Rasmussen: Well, when stored underground the waste presents a minimal threat to anybody or anything. The soil is a very good trap. If they should leak out of the container they're in, the soil is an exchange medium that binds up and traps the material anyhow. Most of the radioactivity in the fuel, the most serious part in the wastes, is the thirty year half-life of strontium and cesium, and you have to store it for ten to twenty times that half-life to reach an innocuous level which is three to six centuries. I believe that we are good enough engineers to build structures that'll survive three to six centuries or to emplace this stuff where there can be little doubt that it will be safe for three to six centuries. There seems enough technical innovation, and enough technical information to be confident that you can provide enough protection for three to six centuries.

Beyond that, there is a low level of radioactive content of the fuel that will last hundreds of thousands to a few million years, and that's a concern which is often pointed out as the real problem with radioactive waste. I don't believe that's a problem for the following reason: that radioactivity level is about equivalent to the radioactivity level in the uranium ore that we dug up in the first place to make the fuel. It is about the equivalent of many, many deposits of uranium ore in the earth's crust. I believe that if we can store that material, less accessible to ground water, and that means burying it deeper than where we found it,

and put it in a less soluble form than we found it, both of which are technically possible, then we've assured ourselves that it is a threat-smaller than the radioactive deposits that we dug up in the first place. Although we can't guarantee what'll happen in a million years for anything, we can be quite confident that it won't contribute a substantial risk compared to the natural radioactivity in the ground, and that to me is a comforting enough solution.

*The Tech: How far off do you think practical fusion power is?*

Rasmussen: Well, you mean to a station, a fusion power electric station, I suppose your question is? If we're lucky and meet a lot of successes and a few breakthroughs, that could happen sometime between 2010 and 2020.

*The Tech: That far off?*

Rasmussen: Well, you recognize that we have not yet achieved something equivalent to the first reactor in fusion. We have yet to produce a fusion machine that produces net energy. Every indication is that we will do it in the next decade. We are getting closer and closer. We now believe that we know enough about it that we are not going to get a surprise when we go the final step and it seems quite likely that we'll get a fusion machine that will actually burn

tritium and produce more energy that we put into it. Then we have the major engineering problems of how to couple that energy out, how to make it in a big size. I can't imagine that taking less than fifteen or twenty years and that's why I give thirty years from now as the earliest.

*The Tech: Have you seen the movie the China Syndrome?*

Rasmussen: Yes, I have.

*The Tech: What is your opinion of the movie? Do you think it will help feed some of the mass hysteria existant today in this country about nuclear power?*

Rasmussen: Well some people may react that way to it. I would say that probably the opponents

## FinBoard has last word

(Continued from page 1)

Colten stated that accounts receivable were increasing with some 90 days past due. The FinBoard loan of \$1,000 also had not been reduced. FinBoard has recommended de-recognition of *Thursday-Voodoo* by the ASA.

Colten said, "... it was decided that the FinBoard would assume the debts of *Thursday-Voodoo* and would try to minimize the loss by selling whatever property that was owned by *Thursday-Voodoo*. FinBoard regretted this decision [to make *Thursday* cease publication]

of nuclear power will claim it is a documentary on reactor safety and the proponents of nuclear power will probably say that it is a travesty on the safety issues of nuclear power, and I think most people who see it will recognize it for what it is, an entertaining, suspenseful story that happens to use a reactor to heighten the tension and provide a mechanism for illustrating the different kinds of human failing that humans have exhibited all their lives. I suspect we have had enough disaster movies about airplanes, ships, buildings burning, and so on, that it will be taken as an exciting story, and not a commentary on nuclear safety.

architecture department

FRESHMAN OPEN HOUSE

Wed., April 11  
3-5pm  
4th flr., bldg. 7  
refreshments

### Antique Jars

Warehouse Sale Saturday, April 7 10:00AM to 1:00PM Hundreds of handblown antique glass jars from a Harvard Museum are now 50-70% off the original prices. Come to 129 Franklin Street in Central Square, Cambridge or call 354-0892.

## "The Day of the Jackal"

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Applications are being accepted for the one year Medical Technology program of the MetPath Institute for Medical Education. Course work begins September 1979, with emphasis on state of the art technology as well as management and supervision.

Materials are available in the Career Guidance Office, or contact directly the MetPath School of Laboratory Medicine, 60 Commerce Way, Hackensack, New Jersey, 07606. Phone (201) 488-1070.

## CIVIL ENGINEERING FRESHMAN OPEN HOUSE

Monday, April 9th

2:00-5:00p.m.

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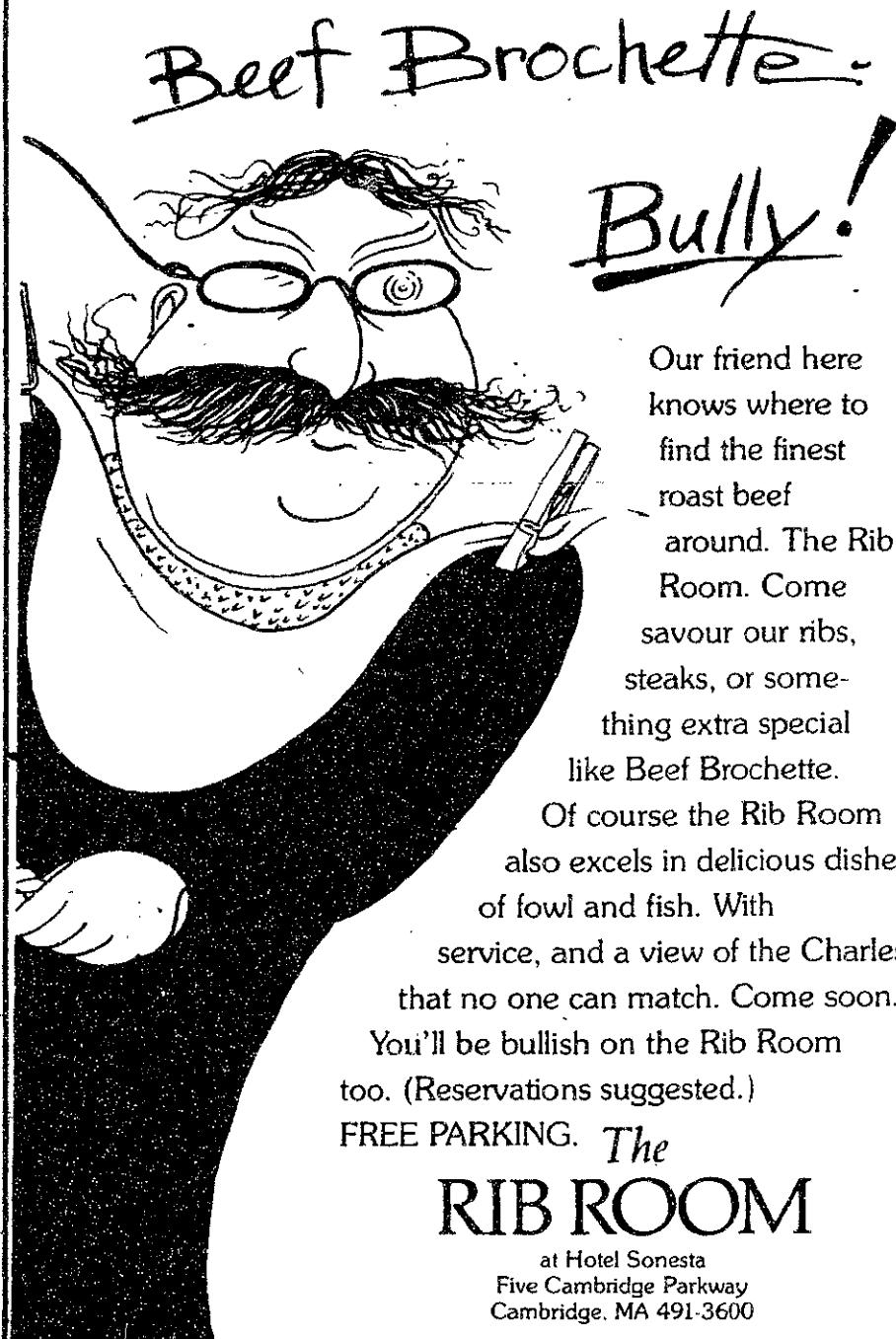
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## Student Faculty Guest Meal Program Spring Term 1979

Would you like a faculty member to join you for Commons in Baker House, MacGregor House or Walker Memorial as your dining guest sometime during this term?

If yes, please read on!

You may invite a faculty member to any meal you choose. The checkers at these three dining units have tickets which they will issue to your faculty guest upon request. Please see them for complete details.

The offices of the Dean for Student Affairs and Food Services have implemented, upon recommendation of the Dining Committee, this experimental Faculty Guest Meal Program for the balance of this term.

R. A. Sherwood  
Associate Dean for  
Student Affairs

S. E. Leonard  
General Manager,  
Food Services

# sports

## Lacrosse coach hopeful

By Bob Host

The outlook for the varsity lacrosse team this year is hopeful, with most of last year's squad returning, according to coach Walt Alessi, interviewed as the team prepared for its home opener tomorrow at 2pm against Amherst.

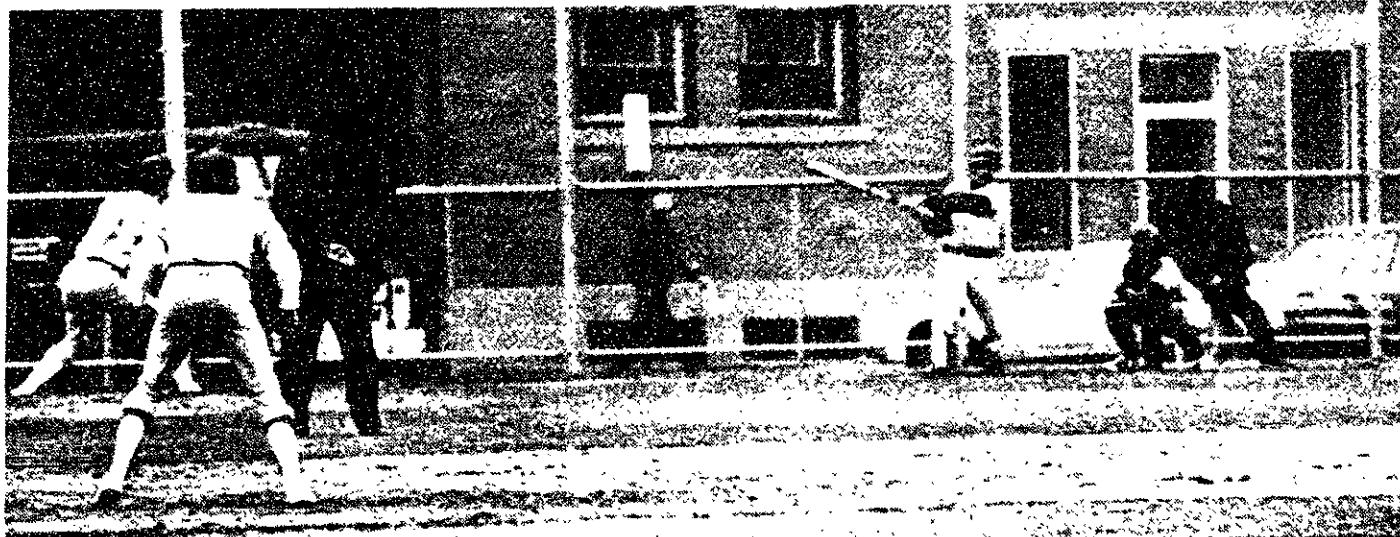
However, the squad must replace Gordy Zuerndorfer '78, last year's captain and leading scorer (23 goals, 14 assists). The task will be made easier by the

return of Philip MacNeil '80 and Stu McKinnon '80. In addition, Alessi noted that this year's strong point should be the defense, which is returning in its entirety, lead by captain Michael Kennney '79.

Also, the coach stated that the midfield has a lot of people returning, but lacks any proven goal scorers, with the exception of senior Tom Lenk. The attack, which Alessi described as having potential, could be beefed up, but he is unsure about how the

freshmen will fit in.

The coach is looking for an 8-4 or 9-3 record, but admits that it is "hard to predict" what the final record would be. The lack of a backup goalie led the coach to state that he doesn't know what he would do in case of injury to starter Dick Cook '79. An overall lack of depth will force the team to be cautious, Alessi went on, but he added optimistically that the good attitude the team has shown so far could help bring about a good record.



The baseball team opened its home season Wednesday with a win over Tufts, 7-3. The Beavers were paced by a 13-hit attack. George Noll '81 picked up the win as the team improved its record to 3-4 after a six-game trip through the south over spring break. The team continues its homestand tomorrow with a game against Bowdoin at 1pm on Briggs Field.



### on deck

**Friday**

Golf vs. Wesleyan, Colby, and Tufts ..... 1pm

Men's Tennis vs. Colby ... 2pm

**Saturday**

Men's Sailing: Owen Trophy at Navy ..... 9am

Women's Sailing: Regis Bowl at Wellesley ..... 9:30am

Men's Sailing: 3-crew team race ..... 11:30am

Track vs. Bates at UNH ..... 12:30pm

Men's Tennis at Wesleyan ..... 1pm

Baseball vs. Bowdoin ..... 1pm

Lacrosse vs. Amherst ..... 2pm

Women's Crew vs. Northeastern and Penn at Conn College

**Sunday**

Men's Sailing: Owen Trophy at Navy ..... 9am

Men's Sailing Invitational at Yale ..... 9:30am

Women's Sailing: President's Trophy at BU ..... 9:30am

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## Be A Big Brother

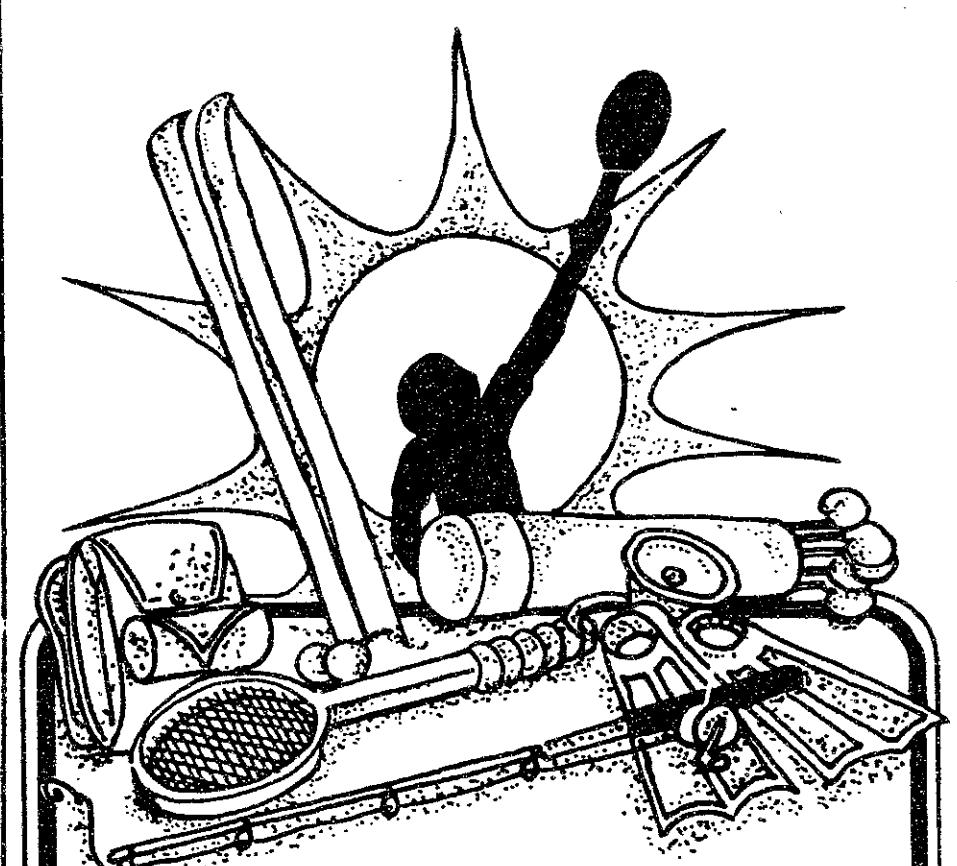
Are you interested in becoming a Big Brother?

If so, a representative from the Big Brother Association of Boston will be at MIT to discuss the program and answer any questions that you may have concerning it.

The representative will be at a booth in the Lobby of Building 10 from 10:00 until 3:00, Mon., Tues., Thur., and Fri., April 9, 10, 12, and 13.

### IM Hockey final results

<b>B League</b>		<b>Lords of the Rink</b>	1 3 1
SAE	5 1 0	PiKA	1 3 1
Montreal Express	4 0 2	Sigma Chi	0 3 1
LCA	3 1 2	<b>C-4</b>	
Sig Ep	3 3 0	PBE-#6	5 0 1
ATO-Taus	2 3 1	Theta Xi	3 1 0
Bexley-B	2 4 0	Baker's Dozen	2 1 0
Beta-B	1 4 1	Virjins	2 3 0
Sloan	0 6 0	DU	1 4 0
<b>C-1</b>		Brataslava Bruins	1 1 0
TDC	4 0 0	PDT	0 2 0
Fiji	3 1 0	LCA	0 2 0
Kappa Sig	3 2 0	<b>C-5</b>	
Big Sticks	2 1 0	Earth and Planetary	4 0 1
Burton 3rd Bombers	2 2 1	Science	3 0 1
Fast Thunder	1 2 1	Chem E	3 2 0
ATO-C	1 3 0	Burton-Conner 3	3 2 0
Moscow Central		SAE	1 3 0
Army	0 5 0	Fiji	0 2 1
<b>C-2</b>		Vigilantes	0 4 1
Sig Ep	5 0 1	<b>D-1</b>	
Yellow Snow	3 2 0	Ordep Zitro's	4 0 1
Second West	3 3 0	LSD	4 1 0
Chi Phi	2 1 1	Blades	3 0 2
Random Hall	2 3 0	Bruins	2 3 0
Delt Tripods	1 0 4	WPOD	1 3 1
Pi Lambda Phi	0 3 1	ATO-D	1 4 0
Betas	0 4 1	<b>D-2</b>	
<b>C-3</b>		Nuclear Eng	5 0 0
Puck-up	5 0 0	Mech E	3 2 0
Deke	4 0 1	DKE	2 2 1
TEP	3 1 1	Zambonies	2 2 0
Theta Chi	2 3 0	Puckwad	2 3 0
Abusers	1 2 2	Theta Chi	1 2 1
AEP-NRSA	1 3 1	Stanley Cup Players	1 4 0



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